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# 07/15/1998 - EIU AFSCME BSW/FSW Unit Reach Tentative Agreement

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# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## EIU, AFSCME BSW/FSW UNIT REACH TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

CHARLESTON -- Almost 200 building and food service employees at Eastern Illinois University will see salary increases over a two-year period if a tentative agreement ratified by the union Tuesday is approved by EIU trustees at their regular meeting Monday, July 20.

Under the two-year tentative agreement, members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 981 Building Service/Food Service Workers Unit would receive an across-the-board wage rate increase of 3 percent retroactive to Sept. 14, 1997, and an additional 3 percent effective Sept. 14, 1998.

"We are very pleased to have reached a tentative agreement both parties are

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 11,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

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## NEGOTIATIONS

happy with and are looking forward to restoring amicable working relationships between the university and bargaining unit employees,” said Bob Wayland, chief negotiator for Eastern.

Eastern has been negotiating a new multi-year labor agreement with the union for 11 months and has been assisted by a federal mediator for the past six months.

In addition to salary increases, the tentative agreement covers changes in contract language and provisions pertaining to subcontracting, moving furniture, the use of student workers, job bidding and lunch breaks.

The new contract language states that during the term of the agreement, a food court shall not result in the layoff of current food service workers in the bargaining unit. Furthermore, a food court or any other similar arrangement where a private contractor provides their own food service personnel shall not be deemed as contracting or subcontracting.

Another contract provision would allow university employees more flexibility in moving furniture and equipment. Under the old agreement, moving of any such items by employees other than building service workers was restricted. The new agreement would enable university employees to move small office equipment and furniture within the same department without using a moving crew and also would allow more freedom to recognized student organizations in setting up functions.

Other changes in contract language would allow the use of more student workers to service buildings as is done at other Illinois public universities and would eliminate a

half-hour paid lunch period for second and third shift employees so their hours of productive work time are consistent with first-shift workers.

Under the new agreement, bargaining unit employees would only be allowed to change job assignments (locations) twice a year instead of three times. This reduction in the number of annual job bids will reduce administrative costs for the university and provide more consistency in staffing units throughout the campus.

As part of the new agreement, a Joint Management/Labor Advisory Task Force would be formed to study issues of efficiency and productivity of the building service employees, with a final report due by Dec. 1. Three members each from management and the union will comprise the task force.

A three-year wage agreement with about 200 clerical/technical employees represented by AFSCME was reached in May.